

COMMISONERS STREAM REPORT
2003 WATER SEASON
TIM O'HARA & MARV WIDERBERG

The season started into the 5th year of drought conditions. The first part of April was rainy and cold. This delayed the runoff and start of the season by the irrigators. The lack of low-level snow pack also contributed to the delay in the stream flow increasing.

The stream flow that was available for use by both the Irrigators and Metro during May and June was not fully utilized, as it had been the previous year. Conservation efforts led to an approximate 30% reduction in culinary use. Water that could have been used was sent down the stream and on to the Jordan River.

The stream peaked at the end of May at about 420 C.F.S. This was comparable to the past 5 years. The stream flow remained in surplus until the 1st part of July. The rain and snow in the early part of the season helped sustain the flow until this period. Below is a chart of the past several years when the flows in the stream hit surplus and went out of surplus.

SURPLUS STAGE: (Above 94 C.F.S.)

	<u>Started</u>	<u>Ended</u>	<u>Days</u>
1998	April 25	Aug. 11	118
1999	May 12	July 21	69
2000	May 15	June 27	43
2001	April 28	June 11	44
2002	May 2	July 6	56
2003	May 19	July 2	44

The month of July was the hottest July on record. This summer season ended as the second hottest summer on record. Flow in the stream dropped down to minimum flows by the end of July and remained steady through the end of the season.

Richards Ditch was used again this summer as a means to conserve the stream water needed to meet demands after the stream flow dropped and the canal water came on-line. We have determined that we are able to save 2 to 3 cfs. in seepage from Willow Creek Country Club down to 1300 East, by using the Richards system. This allows both Richards and Metro to gain some savings and use of the waters. We wish to thank the Richards Ditch Company for allowing us the use of their system for the benefit of all the users of the Creek.

On October 1st the irrigation water from Utah Lake was shut off due to the low level of the Lake and the inability to pump the water. This shut down required us to release the water from Metropolitan T.P. back into the stream to meet the requirements of the

Irrigation Companies. This release was used to complete the water needs to October 15th, which is the end of the season.

Murray Power shut down the Penstock Line for repairs at the end of November. The scheduled days were from Nov. 25 thru Dec. 5. This put water back into the stream from the Penstock to the radial gates. The flow into the stream was 16 cfs bypassed at the Penstock but only 6.5 cfs measured at the 15' Parshall Flume. The net increase across the flume was only approximately 4 cfs. The remainder of the water was eaten up by the streambed. The Murray project also required that the connection from Salt Lake City to South Despain also be activated. The project was not completed until the 13th of Dec. We are happy to report that work done to the connections for South Despain Extension prevented any water from getting into their system.

We again found people who live along the creek pumping water from the stream. We also found several dams made by kids for swimming holes. We have not been actively pursuing the people who are illegally pumping in the past, but as the drought conditions worsen we will be more aggressive in removing the illegal pumps. This is water that belongs to the legal owners and users of the water.

The 2003 water season was filled with many challenges, drought conditions, hotter than normal temperatures and low water. Yet through management and cooperation of all the water users on Little Cottonwood Creek, we all survived. We look forward to the next water season with hopes of a wetter winter and spring to provide us with good water for the 2004 season.

Respectfully:

Tim O'Hara

Marv Widerberg